

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 SS-15 CPR-01 SP-02 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1294

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 18339

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, CASC, (SIEVERS, ROBERT S.) (RUCHKIN)

SUBJECT: ARREST OF PAN AM OFFICIAL

REF: (A) STATE 285802(B)MOSCOW 18269, (C) STATE 276952

1. COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF DELIVERED NOTE ON NOVEMBER 22 TO MR. K. FEDOSEYEV, MFA, USA DEPT., DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PROTESTING DETENTION OF PAN AM OFFICIAL ROBERT SIEVERS ON NOVEMBER 19 ON CHARGES OF SPEEDING AND DRUNKEN DRIVING, REFTEL A. NOTE CALLED ACTION AGAINST SIEVERS A TRANSPARENT ACT OF RETAILIATION FOR ARREST OF AEROFLOT OFFICIAL, MR. RUCHKIN, ON SIMILAR CHARGES, REFTEL C, AND REQUESTED INVESTIGATION BE DROPPED AT ONCE AND THAT SIEVERS BE PERMITTED TO RESUME FULL DRIVING PRIVILEGES.

2. MR. FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PROTEST SINCE ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE CASE WERE NOT YET KNOWN. HE PROMISED TO STUDY THE MATTER AND TO REPORT ON IT.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY APPRECIATED THE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE RUCHKIN CASE, REFTEL A. LOCAL PAN AM REP DRAHORAD HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO INVOLVE A SOVIET LAWYER, WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHOM PAN AM HAS WORKED PREVIOUSLY, IN REPRESENTING SIEVERS.

WE FULLY AGREE WITH DEPT DECISION NOT TO TRY TO INFLUENCE
HANDLING OF RUCHKIN CASE BY FAIRFAX COUNTY AUTHORITIES.
DRASHORAD DID ASK WHETHER DEPARTMENT COULD INQUIRE WITH
FAIRFAX AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE TIME FRAME IN WHICH THE
RUCHKIN CASE MAY BE RESOLVED. WHILE HE, TOO, IN NO WAY
WISHES TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME, DRAHORAD IS HOPEFUL THE
MATTER MIGHT BE RESOLVED SOON AS THE SOVIETS SEEM TO BE
HANDLING THE SIEVERS CASE IN TANDEM.
MATLOCK

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